

CUBAN CAUSE

Seems to be on the Eve of a Grand Triumph.

INSURGENTS STILL ADVANCING

On Havana, Though Opposed by 80,000 Spanish Troops.

THE SPANIARDS ON THE RETREAT

Their Big Army Impotent Before the Patriots.

CUBANS' SUPERIOR ENDURANCE

Of Climate and Hardships Counts for Everything Now--A Battle Counted as a Government Victory is in Reality a Defeat--People of Havana Preparing for the Siege--Will the Cubans be Able to Hold Their Advantage Until the Decisive Blow is Struck, is Now What All the World is Asking.

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HAVANA, Dec. 25.--Further details reached here to-day from Matanzas, of the rapid advance of the insurgent army, numbering about 12,000 men, up on Havana, after forcing its way through the province of Santa Clara and into the province of Matanzas. In spite of the efforts of Captain Martinez de Campos and about 80,000 troops at his disposal in the territory traversed and invaded.

The reported important battle yesterday between the Spaniards under Campos and the insurgents at Coliseo, of the rapid advance of the insurgent army, numbering about 12,000 men, up on Havana, after forcing its way through the province of Santa Clara and into the province of Matanzas. In spite of the efforts of Captain Martinez de Campos and about 80,000 troops at his disposal in the territory traversed and invaded.

The Spanish forces do not appear to have encountered the main body of the insurgents, as at first announced. The fight at the Coliseo plantation was between a portion of the northern column, of the three insurgent columns now pushing through the province of Matanzas and instead of turning out to be a great victory for the Spaniards, the result of the engagement was virtually a defeat for Campos's forces, for the Cuban army pushed onward unchecked and is still advancing on this day.

The fight took place amid burning cane, underwood, tall grass and trees and was of the usual guerrilla nature. At times both the troops and the insurgents were surrounded by walls of flame and the smoke was so dense over certain portions of the ground that the Spaniards and the troops, unable to see each other, kept banging away at open spaces, wasting vast quantities of good ammunition. It is true that this indiscriminate firing was more noticed upon the part of the troops than on the side of the insurgents; but for one insurgent killed at least 2,000 shots must have been fired.

A Cuban Victory.

The Cubans, following their customary tactics, seemed to melt away into the distance so soon as the troops got within sighting distance of them and nearly all the firing was at very long range, although the soldiers made several gallant charges through the burning territory. This style of fighting is termed a defeat of the insurgents; but, as they succeeded in accomplishing their object, holding the Spaniards in check while the Cuban army pushed on southward, the result was really a Cuban victory.

The captain general was as near the front as possible, throughout the battle, encouraging the troops by word and action.

One of the captain general's orderlies, who was sitting on his horse by the side of Martinez de Campos, received a bullet in his chest and fell to the ground severely wounded. The shot, no doubt, was intended for the Spanish commander.

The correspondent of Correspondencia, Manuel Escobar, was decorated in the field of battle by the captain general for gallant conduct at the battle of Ensenada de La Mora, and it may here be added that several other newspapermen have displayed a good deal of pluck in remaining with the captain general under fire. Campos seems to have a supreme contempt for the bullets of the insurgents; but he is rapidly learning to admire their tactics. In spite of all the veteran Spanish commander does the Cubans are marching through his forces, with but a few skirmishes here and there, and he seems to be utterly unable to concentrate ahead of them forces sufficient to draw the enemy into a pitched battle. When Campos establishes a headquarters and lays out a place of battle, the Cubans seem by some mysterious means to hear of it, for, pretending to fall into the trap, they push boldly of men forward, skirmish with the troops, draw the Spanish forces upon them, and then the Cuban army proper outflanks the Spaniards and pushes steadily onward towards Havana.

Ruin in the Waks.

The admirers of the captain general claim that this is his plan of campaign; that he is allowing the Cubans to get by him and nearer and nearer to Havana, only for the purpose of falling upon them in the rear and scattering them to all the points of the compass. This sounds plausible enough; but the insurgents are destroying all bridges, railways and plantations behind them. The route they have followed is marked by a blackened swath of smoking ruins, and the Spaniards will have a very difficult task to push on after their feet-footed enemies.

Besides, within two weeks, Campos has changed his headquarters from Santa Clara, to Cienfuegos, from Cienfuegos to Palmillas, from Palmillas to Colon, from Colon to Jovellanos, from Jovellanos to Limonare and from Limonare to Guanabana, where he slept last night.

All these changes were direct retreats before the enemy in the hope, it is true, of being able to bring about a pitched battle. This seems to be the secret of the failure of the Spaniards to check the advance of the Cubans.

As this dispatch is sent, about noon, the exact whereabouts of the captain general is not known, but he is reported to have made another change of base and to be making another attempt to engage the enemy. All the Spanish generals in the rear of the insurgent army have been instructed to hurry after the enemy with all possible speed.

Spaniards' Weak Point.

Here, however, comes in the weakest feature of the campaign of the Spaniards. The poorly-fed half-grown lads,

shipped here from Spain, are suffering terribly from the effects of the climate and unusual exposure, in spite of the fact that this is the so-called healthy season in Cuba. Yellow fever, smallpox and malarial fever have told terribly upon these unfortunate troops, and in addition, they are utterly unfit for campaigning in this land of bad roads, high grass, swamps and low bush wood. They simply have not the strength to push steadily on after the Cubans, who, as a rule, are thoroughly acclimated men, accustomed to the country, familiar with all its peculiarities and able to bear long marches without suffering too severely.

There again, the Spanish troops are thoroughly dispirited; their hearts are not in the fight, in spite of the gallant manner in which they respond to "Viva Espana" and dash at the enemy--only to be shot down or cut down, or else to find the Cuban disappear as if adorned with wings.

The Cubans, on the other hand, are animated with the spirit of patriotism, with the all-absorbing desire for freedom, with the fire which drove the British before the American patriots under the leadership of Washington.

While these facts cannot be denied, there is one feature of the march of the insurgents upon Havana, which cannot be overlooked. Admitting their number 15,000--can they capture this city, and can they hold it if they do obtain possession of it?

There is the strong garrison of this place, the high walls of the forts and the Spanish fleet to be reckoned with. It must be quickly done or fail altogether. It would appear, for it seems impossible that Campos cannot gather together some kind of a force and start in pursuit of Gomez and Maceo.

In any case, the next few days should decide everything. Generals Valdes and Laque are pushing on for Sabanilla del Encomendador, directly south of Matanzas, at the head of the best troops in that province; but the Cuban army is believed to be to the west of Sabanilla.

After the battle of Coliseo, yesterday, the insurgents, it is definitely known, moved rapidly westward, passing to the south of Limonare while some of them were engaged with the troops commanded by Campos. The Cuban army went by Coliseo, Madan, Tosen and Sumidoro, burning the plantations of Perez, Atrivedio, Siento, Cuavalejos, Altamora, Aguadita and Retribucion as they swept onward.

On to Havana.

The last named plantation is situated between Guanabana and Ybarra, close to and south of Matanzas, proving beyond doubt that the Cubans have continued their march on Havana, for Ybarra is well to the westward of Guanabana, where Campos passed last night.

The insurgents are believed to have camped for the night not far from the two lines of railroad, running close together, between Aguacate and Matanzas, connecting Havana with Matanzas via Jaruco, and by a more roundabout way, via Guines, Bejucal and Havana.

The insurgent scouts are reported to have been seen near San Francisco de Paula, to the west of Santa Anna and not far from the most southerly of the two railroads connecting Havana with Matanzas, and the Cuban advance guard cannot be far behind them. Consequently the advance guard of the army commanded by Gomez and Maceo is less than fifty miles from Havana, and, apparently, steadily advancing.

Between the insurgents and Havana there is only one town of importance, Jaruco, and it is an open question whether Campos can get there from Guanabana or Matanzas, where he is supposed to be, before the Cubans have passed that point.

In this city every preparation is being made to give the insurgents a hot reception. All the outlying posts have been strengthened, the new fortifications are being hurriedly pushed to completion, ammunition is being re-hauled, guns have been made ready and the troops are kept constantly on the alert, although the Spanish officials laugh at the idea of the insurgents being able to approach Havana. But any person who, three weeks ago, would have hinted at the possibility of the Cubans being able, within that time, to push through the provinces of Santa Clara and Matanzas to the border of the province of Havana, might have been promptly looked up as a lunatic. Yet, there are the Cubans, scouting near the borders of the province of Havana, having passed Campos and the picked troops of Spain, civil guards volunteers and guerrillas.

What Next?

Everybody here is asking what the next step will be. Can Campos catch up to or check the enemy in any way? The next two days should furnish the answer to all the questions on the subject.

In spite of the rapid approach of the Cubans, there is no very great outward excitement here, although among public officials and the masses of the population there is an air of anxious expectancy which tells the tale better than any words could do.

The hurried movements of the troops garrisoning the forts, the going and coming of orderlies, the hasty dispatch of reinforcements to the front, the general state of feverish unrest, all show that the news from Matanzas is of the utmost importance, and that the end of the campaign, one way or the other, is believed to be approaching. Even the most stubborn of the Spanish officers agree that the march of Gomez across Santa Clara and Matanzas is a most remarkable military feat to have accomplished within three weeks, and in spite of all the forces Spain could throw across their path.

A boat from Jamaica, containing ten men, supposed to be filibusters, has landed on the coast of Santiago de Cuba.

Christmas in Havana.

LATER--Christmas day went away in Havana with continued anxiety in all circles, the news of the morning of the continued advance of the insurgent forces being confirmed by details coming in through the day and embellished by flying rumors of the close approach of Gomez and his army.

A matter of fact, there was very little accurate information of the exact whereabouts of the insurgents or the course they were taking, the military authorities themselves being much at fault as to where the enemy was to be met. They continued throughout the day to express an utter disbelief that an attack could be contemplated on Havana itself, and their confidence did much to strengthen that of the other residents of the city.

Much still made by the authorities of the engagement at Coliseo plantation, which they in list was a signal victory over the forces of Gomez. After this check, they assert the insurgents will not dare to advance upon Havana. The fact remains that the westward course of the insurgents continues, and active preparations are going on for the immediate defense of the city against assault.

It was announced during the afternoon that Captain General Campos was expected to arrive in Havana at 5 o'clock from Guanabana, near Matanzas, where he slept last night, making the seventh change of his headquarters in two weeks, or since the unchecked progress of the insurgents through Santa Clara and Matanzas to the westward, commenced, and a way to the westward, or nearer Havana. This fact in itself is regarded as highly significant

of the critical situation of Havana and as a relinquishment of any hope on the part of the Spanish commander of bringing the insurgents to a standstill outside Jaruco or any point between Matanzas and Havana. The arrival here of the captain general, makes it evident that the base of operations against the insurgents must now be Havana direct.

Campos' Last Move.

If it is true that General Campos has deliberately suffered the advance of the insurgents into the open and unpopulated country where they are now with the purpose of closing in behind them while he attacks them from Havana, thus crushing them between the upper and nether millstones, his arrival in Havana shows that the hour for his coup has arrived. How much of an available force of Spaniards have been left in the rear of the insurgents to cooperate in such a blow is not accurately known, but the official reports themselves indicate that it is in a badly organized condition; that it has suffered serious losses from the insurgents, and the country through which they have come is almost a barren waste, with means of communication in every direction cut off and in bad condition for technical military operations, such as the Spanish rely on for success. A combined attack on Havana by the insurgents would necessarily be in the nature of a pitched battle--a very different matter from the skirmishes and feints by a small force, which have been adopted thus far to lead away the Spanish forces, while the main column eludes them and advances out of their reach.

Upon his arrival here this evening, General Campos made known his belief that General Gomez has designed his movement, which has thus far proved so signally successful, merely as a raid into the heart of the enemy's country and as near to Havana as it was possible for him to go, intending then to fight his way back. General Campos believes that the while aim of the incursion was the destruction of property, and he asserts that they have already initiated a retreat. He states that he has foreseen this purpose, and he asserts that he has taken effective measures to prevent their return to Santa Clara. They will be compelled to fight at Matanzas, he says, or to surrender. He does not believe that they can effect a retreat without destruction.

His Reception.

The captain general was accorded an enthusiastic reception upon his arrival here by the city authorities and by a committee representative of all the political parties. So far, the reception he expressed unabated confidence in the success of the Spaniards, and believes that the hour of the destruction of the insurgent forces is at hand. He brings news that a battalion from the city of Sancti Spiritus, in the province of Santa Clara, has arrived at Union Deroses, in the Matanzas, about fifteen miles south of the city of Matanzas, and a battalion from Holguin in the province of Santiago de Cuba, is on its way to Guanabana. The Spanish army, he says, for whom these reinforcements are coming forward, are in an advantageous position about Matanzas. Nothing is said of the presence of the insurgent forces east of Matanzas, between that point and Havana.

It is not thought probable that it is the intention of the insurgents to engage in a pitched battle, and much anxiety is felt to know whether they have actually initiated a retreat and whether the elusive strategy they have hitherto employed will serve to open a way for them in either direction they choose to go.

There was a public meeting held here Friday evening as a demonstration of sympathy for General Campos.

Almost a Riot.

TAMPA, Fla., Dec. 25.--Andrew Hernandez, was shot late last night by a Spaniard in Ybor City. A party of Cubans were out strolling when a Spaniard cried "Viva Espana," whereupon the Spaniard shot in the crowd. Hernandez was struck in the abdomen, causing slight injury. Threats were made during the day by both Spaniards and Cubans and trouble was feared to-night. The vigilance of the police probably averted it. A negro was the victim of shooting. Stray bullets inflicted a mortal wound in his head from which he died to-day.

CHANGES ITS TUNE

Beginning to Understand the Real Intent of the Commission.

LONDON, Dec. 25.--The Daily News, the Liberal organ, says, referring to the Venezuelan controversy: "If Senator Gray interprets the real object of the commission its appointment is not of course, and though Lord Salisbury cannot officially recognize the commission, he will do well to render it every courtesy and assistance."

Standard publishes a dispatch from Madrid quoting a sensational article from the Conservative Journal, El Nacional, advising an understanding between Spain and the United States on the ground that Venezuela contends for the same rights against England as Spain did formerly when all the Spanish-American republics were her colonies.

"The Epoch and the best journals here," adds the Standard's correspondent, "condemn the Monroe doctrine."

A BIG HAUL.

Masked Robbers Hold Up a Street Car and Get \$3,000.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25.--Three masked robbers held up a Mission street car returning from Ingleside to-night, and robbed Richard Clarke, an employe of the Pacific Coast Jockey Club, of the receipts of the day, said to aggregate \$3,000. Clarke and two other men were shot by the robbers, but it is believed none of the wounds will prove fatal, although Clarke will probably lose one of his legs.

Masons Are Peace Makers.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.--The World to-morrow morning will publish the following cablegram from Lincolnshire, Freeman's Journal, Dec. 25.

New York World, New York: Spalding (Lincolnshire) Free Masons wish peace and good will to United States brethren.

This is indicative of a general movement on the part of the Masons of England to prevent ill-feeling from arising between Great Britain and America over the Venezuelan controversy.

Their Romance Ended.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Dec. 25.--William J. Conner, son of a member of the British parliament, secured a divorce here yesterday from his wife, Emma Conner, on the grounds of incompatibility of temper and neglect of duty. Mrs. Conner, prior to her marriage, was leading lady of Sir John Astley's troupe in England.

Spencer Denies It.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.--Samuel Spencer, yokid of the Southern railroad, was seen at his home in this city, in reference to the rumor that the Baltimore and Ohio and the Southern road were to be consolidated. Mr. Spencer, who was formerly president of the Baltimore and Ohio, said that there was absolutely no truth whatever in the rumor. Further than making this denial, he refused to discuss the affairs of the Southern road.

CHRISTMAS GIFT

Of the Ways and Means Committee to the Country.

RELIEF MEASURES COMPLETED

In Full Committee--Democrats Oppose the Tariff Bill--Their Objection Answered by the Statement That it is Framed Purely to Meet the Deficiency in the Revenue and is an Emergency Measure Which the President Should Sign.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 25.--The house ways and means committee devoted several hours of Christmas to a final consideration of the two revenue bills which are to be presented to the house to-morrow. Printed copies of the bills were laid before the full committee, the plan being announced to the Democratic members for the first time, although they were familiar with its details through the accurate forecasts presented by the Associated Press. The bills were formally adopted as committee measures, motions to lay them on the table being overruled by party votes. Each bill was read by sections and motions were made by the Democrats to strike out each section, which of course, failed to carry. It was voted to give Thursday to the consideration of the tariff bill by the house and Friday to the bond bill. A vote on each at the end of the day's debate was the programme outlined in these dispatches yesterday. The Democrats endeavored to secure three days' debate; to gain a postponement of two or three days in which to study the probable effects of the measure, if enacted, also to have the bond bill defeated before the tariff bill, but the Republicans adhered to their original arrangements.

The committee members present, were: Dingell, Maine; Doolittle, Iowa; Payne, New York; Tawney, Minn.; Hopkins, Ill.; Daisell, Penna.; Russell, Conn.; Johnson, Ind.; Steel, Ind.; Evans, Kentucky--Republicans.

Crisp, Georgia; McMillan, Tenn.; Wheeler, Ala.; Tarsney, Mo.; Turner, Georgia--Democrats.

Object of the Bills.

Chairman Dingell stated to the committee that the bills were not framed as a Republican measure, but as one calculated to save the credit of the government, which, according to the President's message and personal communications made by Secretary Carlisle to members, was endangered. The condition of the treasury from their representations, demanded immediate action and the Republicans had prepared emergency bills on lines which seemed most efficient, based on the assertion that the bill did not constitute and was not intended for a revision of the tariff. Consequently, there was no necessity for a long discussion of the bill. The Wilson act had been taken as the basis for the tariff bill. An estimation of the probable increase of revenue to be derived from the tariff bill had been made, based on importations under the Wilson act in 1894. This showed a probable increased revenue of \$40,000,000, which about equalled the deficit of the past year. Twelve million, it was estimated, would be derived from the increase on raw wool; \$14,000,000 from manufactured wools and \$14,000,000 from the fifteen per cent horizontal advance on other schedules.

The Republicans had waived their protest principles for the time in preparing these bills.

Mr. Dingell said: "So they hoped that President Cleveland would waive any antagonistic views that he might hold and sign the bills."

An Objection Answered.

One of the Democrats asked why the Republicans had not gone to the full extent of the McKinley bill, to which Mr. Dingell replied that they would do so if they had the power. The Democrats of their part, contended that the effect of the bond scheme would be to retire the greenbacks by holding them in the treasury, and said the Republicans proposed to do indirectly just what the President had recommended and what they (the Republicans) denounced. The tariff bill, they claimed, was a strictly Republican measure, and a measure for which President Cleveland had no voice.

Mr. McMillan asserted that there was no need for additional revenue as the treasury statement showed a cash balance of \$170,000,000.

Mr. Dingell replied that \$70,000,000 of this was in greenbacks, which had not come in as revenue, but had been redeemed by gold, while on their face they constituted part of the cash balance. The Republican plan would provide for the expenses of the government without encroaching on the gold reserve or employing redeemed greenbacks.

Amendments were offered by Mr. Turner to strike out the second section of the bond bill providing for treasury certificates of indebtedness, and by Mr. McMillan, to make these certificates subject to taxation, as are greenbacks and other currency.

Both were lost, but Mr. Tarsney voted with the Republicans against Mr. Turner's amendment.

Chairman Dingell will present a report explanatory of the bills. The Democrats say that they have not time to prepare a minority report.

(For text of bills, see Page 2.)

A TARIFF FOR REVENUE

To Meet a Treasury Emergency the Object of the Bill--It's According to Professed Democratic Doctrine and Should be Signed by a Democratic President.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 25.--Chairman Dingell, of the ways and means committee, made the following statement to-night: "The revenue bill is not intended to be a tariff revision, but simply an emergency bill to raise about \$40,000,000 of revenue to meet the deficiency. The main object is revenue, although incidental increases will help American industries to some extent. The bill is limited to two and a half years, the expectation being that by that time the Republicans will be in full power and able to revise the tariff on their own lines. Wools are taken from the free list and clothing wools given a duty of 6-10 cents (50 per cent of the duty provided by the act of 1893), and the duties on certain woolen goods are given a specific compensatory duty of 60 per cent of what they had under the act of 1893, in addition to the ad valorem duties of the present law. The articles of lumber placed on the free list of the tariff of 1890 are transferred to the dutiable list, with 60 per cent of the duty they had under the act of 1890. Then all the other dutiable schedules (except sugar, which is not touched) have all the du-

ties raised 15 per cent. The committee had not the time to treat the articles separately, and hence a horizontal increase became necessary as to all articles now on the free list.

"The bond bill," added Mr. Dingell, "gives the secretary of the treasury authority to issue a 3 per cent five-year coin bond to maintain the redemption fund, in addition to the authority he now possesses, but provides that the proceeds of the bonds sold under this act and under the redemption act shall be used only for redemption purposes. It also provides that all bonds shall be first offered to the people of this country. The bill also authorizes certificates of indebtedness bearing 8 per cent interest and payable within thirty years, to be issued to meet any temporary deficiency of revenue. The only object of the bond bill is to reduce the rate of interest and the time they run, as bonds which the secretary is now authorized to issue bear 4 or 5 per cent interest. The bill practically separates the redemption fund from the cash in the treasury, and is intended to put a stop to the practical use of proceeds of bonds to meet the deficiency in the treasury."

PATHEtic SCENE

In the Cleveland Divorce Court--Husband and Wife Shed Tears.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 25.--Judge Logue's inherent magnanimity asserted itself again yesterday and he gave the Christmas tree in his court room a vigorous shake. When the boughs stopped waving he gathered up eight decrees for divorce and distributed them among as many as applicants who acknowledged their thanks as best they could to the judicial Santa Claus.

There was a touching scene in the room when the court presented Mrs. Jennie M. Park with a decree against David A. Park. Twenty-two years ago the couple were married and along life's stormy seas they guided their ship of domesticity. Three children were born to them, one of whom is now a young woman grown. For many years the couple lived happily, but Park became addicted to the use of intoxicating liquor. When under its influence he was cruel and abusive to his wife. She endured it long and patiently, but the limit of her endurance was reached a little more than a year ago, when she began a suit for divorce.

A Pathetic Scene.

The trial began Monday and was hotly contested. Yesterday Judge Logue rendered his decision. Before pronouncing his verdict he read several letters which Mrs. Park had at one time during the estrangement with her husband written to him, in which she said she was willing to forget his conduct if he would abandon his vicious habits. Judge Logue became eloquent in his portrayal of Mrs. Park's womanly and wifely devotion, and soon Mrs. Park and her husband and their children were in tears. The ordeal of the last two days proved too much for Mrs. Park and she began to sob violently as the court referred to her letters and to her efforts to prevent the disruption of her family. Her grief could not be assuaged and she was led from the court room weeping bitterly. She was granted, besides a divorce, \$500 alimony and the custody of her minor children, of whom there are two. Park is an employe of the Walker Manufacturing Company.

DIRECT FROM THE PALACE.

An Alleged Order to Burn and Plunder, American Mission Property.

LONDON, Dec. 25.--The Daily News has a minutely detailed letter describing the Kharpur massacre, the writer of which declares that the evidence leaves no doubt that there was a well-organized plan to drive the missionaries out of the country, to plunder and burn all the American buildings and to render the further stay of the missionaries impossible.

A dispatch to the Times from Constantinople, under date of December 25, says: "Last evening hand bills were profusely scattered and thrust into windows and carriages and into the pockets of pedestrians, announcing the imminent deposition of the sultan. The jewellers of Stamboul, fearing a commotion, closed their shops for the whole day."

"As an outcome of the meeting of the ambassadors to concert means to prevent the massacre of the inhabitants of Zeitoun, for which the palace thrists, and which it attempts to justify by attributing mendacious statements of atrocities committed by the Zeitounis, Baron Calice, the Austrian ambassador, went to the porte to-day and imparted to the grand vizier the earnest hope of the powers that no extreme measures would be taken against Zeitounis."

"Mr. Seldoff, the Russian ambassador, had an audience with the sultan to-day. It is understood that Russia declines to join the powers in any really effective measure against the porte."

"Iszet Pasha is under arrest at Saraukierat."

ANOTHER RIOT

In Philadelphia Quelled by the Police Indignant ex-Scribers.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25.--The street railway trouble broke out afresh to-day, but was quickly quelled, and cars are again running as usual. While it lasted several cars were stoned and their windows smashed, but nobody was hurt. The difficulty occurred on Girard avenue, the ex-scribers charging that the division superintendent in sending out cars this morning violated the company's agreement of Monday by giving preference to the new or non-union men.

The old employes gathered together and after watching the cars going out for some time with imported motormen and conductors, started a mob. Obstructions were placed on the tracks and a mob of ten thousand people gathered and began to stone the cars. A squad of mounted police was called to the scene and in a short time the mob was dispersed, after several arrests had been made.

The Second and Third streets line was also in trouble for a while, while from the same cause, but peace was restored on both branches by the company agreeing to put the old men to work. On the other lines cars were run almost altogether by old men, and there was no trouble. All cars were running as usual to-night without molestation.

SENATOR ELKINS WINS

The Law Suit Brought by Rencher for New Mexico Lands.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.--Justice Patterson, in the supreme court, has handed down a decision dismissing the complaint in the action of William C. Rencher to recover a one-third interest in 806 acres of coal land in New Mexico from United States Senator Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia.

RUSSIA'S OFFER

To Lend This Government Four Hundred Million Dollars.

IT IS SAID TO STILL HOLD GOOD.

The Story that Rothschild's Duplicated the Offer on Learning of the Czar's Action Discredited--The Offer Was Made Two Years Ago, as Published at the Time, and Report is Revived for the Benefit of European Gold Brokers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.--Great interest was excited in official circles here to-day by the publication by the Washington Post, under a New York date, of a circumstantial statement to the effect that the Russian government has offered to lend the United States any amount of gold up to four hundred million dollars--one-half of its total possessions of this specie--in order to maintain its credit against assaults from the great money powers of other European nations, and that learning of this tender, the Rothschilds, through Messrs. Belmont and Morgan, had made overtures to let the United States have any amount of gold needed. The statement, it is learned, is accurate, so far as concerns the fact that Russia tendered the United States a part of its store of gold, but the natural inference that this offer was a recent one, made in consequence of the late Venezuelan messenger and subsequent panic, is not warranted, for it may be asserted positively and on excellent authority that the tender was in no manner influenced by the complications now existing between the United States and Great Britain as the result of the negotiations over the Venezuelan boundary question, and was, in fact, made two years ago.

History of It.

The history of the matter is brief and runs back only to the beginning of the present administration of President Cleveland. Soon after he came into office for the second time the President was confronted with a rapidly shrinking gold reserve in the United States treasury and a heavy loss of revenue due to radical changes in the tariff. This situation resulted in the United States being asked larger rates than usual for any bonds it might wish to float.

The Russian government for ten years had been accumulating gold, at many times at a disadvantage, owing to the hostility of the money lenders of Central and Western Europe, and much of this gold was purchased in the open market by secret agents of the Russian government. The purpose was not only to provide a proper reserve in Russian gold, but also to provide against a contemplated change in the Russian monetary system by raising the silver ruble to a parity with gold. The procedure in this case was similar to that of Secretary Sherman, when he accumulated the \$100,000,000 gold reserve as a preliminary to redeeming the treasury ready to redeem in gold the greenbacks issued during the last war.

Still Hold Good.

Taking cognizance of the situation of the United States government with which it always has been on terms of the closest friendship, and between which and itself there was no conflicting interests likely to occur, Secretary Gresham, through a private channel, then Russian minister to Washington, notified that Russia stood ready to part with half her store of gold, if so much were necessary, to the United States in order to protect her old time friend in the family of nations. This tender was made about eight months after President Cleveland assumed the presidential office for the second time.

At the time the offer was gratefully acknowledged, but as the capitalists of other nations feared an inkling of the fact that the tender had been made, it was found that the terms upon which gold could be procured in the open market were so favorable as to render unnecessary to tax the friendship of Russia. At present, so it is understood, the Russian offer still holds good, and about the only new phase of the situation is that this fact has been made known freshly to the European gold brokers.

GLOOMY CHRISTMAS

To the Farmers Along the Osage River, Devastation by Floods.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 25.--A special to the Republic from Eldorado, Mo., says: "To the farmers who live along the banks of the Osage river in Central Missouri, this Christmas brought only woe and gloom. The unprecedented rise in the river of thirty-five feet in three days has spread all over this section and many farmers have lost everything they possessed. Some of them had their corn in shocks, others in cribs. The flood has taken all that lay in the lowlands. Not only have many of the farmers lost their crops, but their stock and buildings as well."

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Dec. 25.--The Osage, Gasconade and Moreau river floods are subsiding and to-night the weather is clear. Communication was established with the Gasconade this evening. The entire Osage Valley for four hundred miles is a scene of desolation and ruin, great suffering necessarily resulting, as hundreds of families have lost everything. It is thought the loss by the floods will reach \$2,000,000.

At Tusculum, the county seat of Miller, a terrible collision exists. Nearly the entire town is partially under water. Twenty cars loaded with railroad ties were standing on side-tracks at Barnell, and there are thousands of ties floating about on the river in this immediate vicinity is estimated at \$1,000,000. At Barnell, the end of the Lebanon branch of the Missouri Pacific, the river is three miles wide, and a train has been able to get within a mile and a half